



## **RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD**

### **Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

*Summary:* In accordance with the requirement of Section 3506 (c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 which provides opportunity for public comment on new or revised data collections, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) will publish periodic summaries of proposed data collections.

*Comments are invited on:* (a) Whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the RRB's estimate of the burden of the collection of the information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden related to the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

*Title and purpose of information collection:* Pension Plan Reports; OMB 3220-0089.

Under Section 2(b) of the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA), the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) pays supplemental annuities to qualified RRB employee annuitants. A supplemental annuity, which is computed according to Section 3(e) of the RRA, can be paid at age 60 if the employee has at least 30 years of creditable railroad service or at age 65 if the employee has 25-29 years of railroad service. In addition to 25 years of service, a "current connection" with the railroad industry is required. Eligibility is further limited to employees who had at least one month of rail service before October 1981 and were awarded regular annuities after June 1966. Further, if an employee's 65th birthday was prior to September 2, 1981, he or she must not have worked in rail service after certain closing dates (generally the last day of the month following the month in which age 65 is attained). Under Section 2(h)(2) of the RRA, the amount of the supplemental annuity is reduced if the employee receives monthly pension payments, or a lump-sum pension

payment from a private pension from a railroad employer, to the extent the payments are based on contributions from that employer. The employee's own contribution to their pension account does not cause a reduction. A private railroad employer pension is defined in 20 CFR 216.42.

The RRB requires the following information from railroad employers to calculate supplemental annuities: (a) the current status of railroad employer pension plans and whether such plans cause reductions to the supplemental annuity; (b) whether the employee receives monthly payments from a private railroad employer pension, elected to receive a lump-sum in lieu of month pension payments from such a plan; (c) the date monthly pension payments began or a lump-sum payment was received; and (d) the amount of the payments attributable to the railroad employer's contributions. The requirement that railroad employers furnish pension information to the RRB is contained in 20 CFR 209.2.

The RRB currently utilizes Form G-88p, *Employer's Supplemental Pension Report*, and Form G-88r, *Request for Information About New or Revised Employer Pension Plan*, to obtain the necessary information from railroad employers. One response is requested of each respondent. Completion is mandatory.

The RRB proposes to revise Forms G-88p and G-88r to remove information related to the reporting of 401(k) savings plans and to make other editorial changes. The RRB also proposes the implementation of an Internet equivalent version of Form G-88p that can be submitted through the Employer Reporting System.

Estimate of Annual Respondent Burden

Form Number	Annual Responses	Time (Minutes)	Burden (Hours)
G-88p	100	8	13
G-88p (Internet)	200	6	20
G-88r	10	8	1
<b>Total</b>	310		34

*Additional Information or Comments:* To request more information or to obtain a copy of the information collection justification, forms, and/or supporting material, contact Dana Hickman at (312) 751-4981 or [Dana.Hickman@RRB.GOV](mailto:Dana.Hickman@RRB.GOV). Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Charles Mierzwa, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092 or e-mailed to [Charles.Mierzwa@RRB.GOV](mailto:Charles.Mierzwa@RRB.GOV). Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Charles Mierzwa  
Chief of Information Resources Management

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